

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 SAJ-01

NIC-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /194 W

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R 040454Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8367

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON PFOR VS

SUBJ: SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFORTS TO PRESERVE POSITION IN IPU

REF: A) SAIGON 8015 (NOTAL); B) SAIGON 11512 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SOUTH VIETNAMESE LEGISLATORS HAVE EMBARKED ON CAMPAIGN TO BOLSTER POSITION AT UPCOMING IPU CONFERENCE IN TOKYO OCTOBER 1-11 WHERE CHALLENGE TO THEIR PRESENCE IS EXPECTED. SENATOR LE VAN DONG, VIET-NAM IPU CHAPTER CHAIRMAN, HAS PUT TOGETHER A THOROUGH EXPOSITION OF THE CASE FOR THE GVN AND IS CURRENTLY TRAVELING ABROAD TO CEMENT SUPPORT AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO COUNTER POSSIBLE CHALLENGE AT CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, VIETNAMESE LAWMAKERS HAVE INVITED PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS FROM 41 COUNTRIES TO VISIT VIET-NAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TOKYO MEETING. FIFTEEN HAVE ACCEPTED, AT LEAST TENTATIVELY. IPU SEC GEN TERENCE WAS NOT INVITED, CONTRARY TO EARLIER PLANS. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT IS WORKING WITH USDEL/IPU TO MEET ANY POTENTIAL MOVE TO BOOT GVN FROM IPU. END SUMMARY.

1. TO MEET THE EXPECTED CHALLENGE TO THEIR PRESENCE AT THE UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) SESSION IN TOKYO (REFTELS AND PREVIOUS), SOUTH VIETNAMESE LEGISLATORS HAVE EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO GARNER SUPPORT AMONG IPU MEMBERS AND TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED STRATEGY AMONG FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS TO FOIL THE CHALLENGE.

(AT THE IPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN APRIL COMMUNIST REPS SUGGESTED SECRETARY GENERAL STUDY QUESTION OF "TWO GOVERNMENTS" IN SVN AND THE RVN REPRESENTATION BE SUSPENDED IN THE MEANTIME. U.S. AND OTHER DELS DEMURRED, AND IT WAS FINALLY AGREED IPU SYG WOULD STUDY MATTER AND REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT TOKYO MEETING.)

2. SENATOR LE VAN DONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE VIET-NAM IPU CHAPTER, AND DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN THUAN LEFT SAIGON SEPTEMBER 2 FOR JAPAN, MEXICO AND THE U.S. (REF B). THEY PLAN TO CONFER WITH HOST-
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COUNTRY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE IN PROPAGATING THEIR POSITION. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, SENATOR DONG DEMONSTRATED A THOROUGH GRASP OF THE POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE ANTICIPATED CREDENTIALS FIGHT AND HAD QUITE CLEARLY DONE A GOOD BIT OF RESEARCH TO BUTTRESS THE GVN POSITION. HE IS A VETERAN IN IPU CIRCLES AND EVIDENTLY HAS MADE A NUMBER OF FRIENDS AMONG FOREIGN LEGISLATORS, SOME FROM COUNTRIES NOT NORMALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE GVN. DONG

HOPES TO PARLAY THESE FRIENDSHIPS INTO FAVORABLE VOTES SHOULD THERE BE A SHOWDOWN IN TOKYO.

3. VIETNAM CHAPTER IS ORGANIZING VISITS TO SOUTH VIET-NAM BY A NUMBER OF FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARIANS ENROUTE TO, OR RETURNING FROM, THE TOKYO MEETING. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SENATOR DONG, A TOTAL OF 41 DELEGATIONS WERE INVITED OF WHICH 15 HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY. COUNTING A JUST-COMPLETED VISIT BY JAPANESE DIETMEN, FIVE DELEGATIONS (JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS, THAILAND, IRELAND AND THE U.K.) WILL HAVE STOPPED HERE PRIOR TO THE CON-

ERENCE. DELEGATIONS FROM SWITZERLAND, IRAN AND ISRAEL WILL VISIT IN MID-OCTOBER, AFTER THE CONFERENCE CLOSES. PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM JORDAN, AUSTRIA, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND TURKEY HAVE REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED INVITATIONS, BUT NO DATES HAVE YET BEEN SET FOR THEIR VISITS. IN ADDITION, ITALY IS SAID TO HAVE AGREED TO SEND A DELEGATION IN 1975 AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BANGLADESH IPU CHAPTER HAS REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION REGARDING A POSSIBLE VISIT. IPU CHAPTERS FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES (FRANCE,

BELGIUM, SINGAPORE, NEW ZEALAND, INDIA, EGYPT AND NORWAY) HAVE DECLINED THE INVITATIONS. SOUTH VIETNAMESE ALSO INVITED DELEGATIONS FROM NIGER, UPPER VOLTA, MALAYSIA, LAOS, AUSTRALIA, ICELAND, SPAIN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, THE PHILIPPINES, LUXEMBOURG, MOROCCO, ETHIOPIA AND NEPAL. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE LATTER LISTING EITHER HAVE NO PARLIAMENT OR HAVE DISSOLVED THEIR LEGISLATIVE BODY. RESPONSES FROM THE REMAINDER WILL PRESUMABLY BE FORTHCOMING.

4. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE DECIDED AGAINST INVITING SECRETARY GENERAL TERENCE AS EARLIER PLANNED (REF A) BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO SENATOR DONG, IT WAS FELT THAT TO PRESERVE NEUTRAL IMAGE TERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD HAVE TO DECLINE. A POST-CONFERENCE INVITATION IS STILL A POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER.

5. RVN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CANVASS FOR SUPPORT.

6. COMMENT: SENATOR DONG AND HIS COLLEAGUES SEEM TO BE ON TOP OF THE SITUATION WITH ONLY MINIMAL SUPPORT FROM US TO THIS POINT. IT IS SIGNIFICANT -- AND HEARTENING -- THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARE BEARING THEIR OWN COLORS AND, TRULY DOING A CREDITABLE JOB. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL ENSURE THAT USDEL TO IPU CONFAB IS FULLY BRIEFED ON POSSIBLE OBJECTION BY COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS TO PRESENCE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE AT CONFERENCE AND PROVIDED WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION. EMBASSY TOKYO MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO SUPPLY USDEL WITH USEFUL INFORMATION

FROM ITS FILES, DEPENDING ON CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS.
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